

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W
----- 103089 /41

R 121239Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 396
INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN HANDLING OF AICRAFT SHOOT-DOWN

REF: TEHRAN 12239

1. LOCAL RADIO DECEMBER 11 AND MORNING PRESS DECEMBER 12
FEATURED PARTIAL TEXT OF SHAH'S INTERVIEW GIVEN AP'S STANLEY
SWINTON ON DECEMBER 8 (SEPTTEL) SECTION DEALING WITH THIS
SUBJECT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"Q: A QUESTION AND THIS IS A VERY DELICATE ONE. I UNDERSTAND
FROM SOME CONTACTS OF MINE THAT THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE PLANE THAT
WAS SHOT DOWN OVER WESTERN YEMEN WAS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WITH
VEYR SUBTLE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. IT CRASHED IN SHALLOW
WATER, THE CO PILOT GOT OUT AND WAS CAPTURED, THAT IT WAS
CONSIDERED A VERY HIGH PRIORITY MATTER TO DESTROY THE PLANE
SO THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT GET IT AND THAT WITH THE
USE OF AERIAL TANKERS THE IRANIAN FIGHTER PLANES HAVE SUCCESS-
FULLY DESTROYED IT WITH MISSILES IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. IS THAT
CORRECT?

"A: NO BUT WE WOULD HAVE DONE IT IF THEY TRIED TO PUT THEIR
HANDS ON IT.

"Q: MY INFORMATION WAS WRONG THEM.

"A: BUT WE WOULD HAVE DONE IT. BECAUSE IT WAS AN UNARMED
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PLANE AND WAS SHOT DOWN OVER OMANI TERRITORY AND IT WASN'T
FLYING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BORDER AND THE INERTIA OF THE

PLANE TOOK IT TO THE WEST AND THE SEA AND WE ARE ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF THE PILOT AND OBVIOUSLY IF THEY WANT TO FISH IT OUT OF THE WATER THEY MUST ASK PERMISSION. WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE BULLIED BY THOSE PEOPLE.

"Q: I'VE HEARD THE THESIS PROJECTED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN NON-YEMENI GUNNERS WHO WOULD DO THIS.

"A: I THINK IT WAS ONE OF THESE THINGS WHICH HAPPENS--ONE IN A MILLION."

2. LEFT OUT OF THE PUBLISHED SECTION WERE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHICH APPEAR IN AP VERSION OF PARTIAL TEXT:

"A:..... THE PLANE WENT INTO THE BULLET.

"Q: JUST A MACHING GUN OR SOMETHING?

"A: OH, YES."
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-0659
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761249/aaaabqnr.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 12239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN HANDLING OF AIRCRAFT SHOOT-DOWN
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IR, YS, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006